

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #71 - POSTED 04/29/93

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (805) 296-2407, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, (718) 353-2801, (407) 965-1234 or (206) 368-3969. To provide stories and information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU DJ0QN and

many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[819]

#### Electronic Filings

The FCC has changed its rules to allow for the eventual electronic filing of license applications in the various private radio services. Currently all license applications must include a handwritten signature. But last October Congress amended the Communications Act to allow electronic filing of applications, applications signed in any manner or form including by electronic means.

The Commission says that any changes to come will only be after it has established procedures for electronic filing. For now amateurs, and all others applicants are still bound by the handwritten signature requirement and will be for some time to come.

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#### SAREX SUCCESS

STS-56, the Discovery, has written itself into history as a record breaking success. The five-ham crew headed by their Commander Ken Cameron KB5AWP racked up a number of firsts during the mission. They talked to students at eighteen schools worldwide -- one more than the previous record set on STS-45. Good clear contacts were reported as young students asked questions about life in orbit. Thirteen of those schools were in the United States, two were in Great Britain, one in Australia, another in Portugal and one was in South America.

This trip on the space shuttle Discovery also broke new ground in the world of Amateur Radio when Mike Foale, KB5UAC talked to Cosmonaut Alexander Bolishuk (SIC??) R2MIR aboard the Russian MIR space station as the two spaceships passed within 135 kilometers of one another on a Saturday evening. That was the first two-way contact between orbiting craft.

Yet another first was a Fast-Scan ATV transmission that was climaxed when the Johnson Space Center Amateur radio Club W5RRR sent live pictures to Discovery from the Mission Control Room. Cap-Com was a little surprised when Ken Cameron on board the orbiter asked him to wave. From Cap-Com came the reply: "Next time, you will have to ask for permission to come aboard." Before signing off, Cameron told Mission Control to: "Look sharp. You never know when Discovery might be watching you."

Slow-Scan television, packet radio, and a few general contacts rounded out the schedule for the all-ham crew of STS-56

consisting of Ken Cameron KB5AWP, Mike Foale KB5UAC, Ken Cockrell KB5UAH, Steve Oswald KB5YSR and Ellen Ochoa KB5TZZ.

Those who copied SAREX transmissions from STS-56, or who were lucky enough to establish two-way radio contact with the Space Shuttle, should direct their QSL requests to: STS-56 QSL C/O Vienna Wireless Society P.O. Box 418 Vienna, VA 22183

Include a self addressed stamped envelope. Non-US stations should include the appropriate number of IRCs with your QSL or a \$0.50 U.S. stamp on the envelope. The Report should include callsign, whether worked/heard, date, UTC time, mode, frequency, and QSO number for packet connects.

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#### VEC CONFERENCE LIMBO

The annual meeting of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators appears to be in a state limbo. This is because of the FCC is short some 6 to 10 days worth of funding to keep its employees at work. As a result, the agency now plans to furlough its staff one day per pay period, and it now appears that the date of the VEC Conference could be one of those days.

The Conference Chairman is Don Tunstill, WB4HOK. He has sent all VEC's a letter indicating that the Conference for June 18th has a few problems. Tunstill wrote in part -- and we quote -- "As of last Thursday, all branches of the FCC have been notified that the following unpaid furlough days will be taken by all employees. These are May 28, June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30, Aug. 13 and Aug. 27" -- end quote.

While Tunstill works toward setting a new meeting date with the FCC, another VEC, Gordon Girton, W6NLG of the Sunnyvale VEC says that the group definitely wants your input regarding future testing matters. This is especially true in regard to the new element 3 B. If you want to send your comments to the Question pool manager send them to the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Club VEC, 5833 Clinton Highway, Suite 203, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912-2545.

Our thanks to Gordon Girton, W6NLG for passing this information to us.

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#### IS IT AN INVESTIGATION

The FCC is now admitting that there is an investigation of possible testing irregularities going on in upstate New York, but a Commission spokesman says that its is limited to only one individual at this time. In a telephone conversation with Westlink Report publisher Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, the FCC's Thomas Fitz-Gibbon admitted that the agency is now officially looking

into an admission of a particular applicant. According to Fitz-Gibbon, this particular person is alleged to have admitted being away on vacation at the time the test in question was given. Previously the FCC had said that no investigation was contemplated and none was taking place.

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#### More power denied

The Commission has denied a request for a waiver of the amateur 1,500 watt power output limitation. Dale Gagnon, KW1I, of Bowe, NH, had asked for the waiver earlier, as well as a reconsideration of the FCC's original denial. The FCC said that Gagnon's latest request for a waiver has not shown that his circumstances are unique nor has he presented any facts that would warrant a waiver. Gagnon wanted the waiver to legally operate on AM at a PEP power more than 1,500 watts output. Its unknown if Gagnon will file an appeal.

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#### HAM KILLS HAM

A sad story out of southern California. Word that a newlywed ham has been arrested in the shooting death of his wife. Tyrone Casey Hyia, N7ZMM has been booked into Orange County California jail on suspicion of murdering his thirty-three year old wife Michelle, N6ZUM.

News reports say that the shooting appeared to be the result of a domestic dispute. According to Detective Terry Sirks, Tyrone Hyia called police from a Howard Johnsons motel room claiming that his wife had just shot herself. When police arrived, the police found Michelle dead from a single gunshot wound to the head.

Detective Sirks did not say what evidence lead them to the conclusion that N6ZUM was a murder victim, but N7ZNM was taken into custody at the scene.

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#### DXCC DELETIONS

In DX, the ARRL Awards Committee has voted unanimously to accept a recommendation of its DX Advisory Committee to add the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia for country credit. This, for contacts made September 8th 1991. This change is based the criteria of a change in Government. At the same time the committee also voted unanimously to delete Czechoslovakia effective 1 January 1993. Contacts made December 31, 1992 and before still count for this now deleted country.

Replacing Czechoslovakia are the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The DXCC Desk will accept QSL cards for these three new countries starting June 1st, 1993. QSL cards received at the DXCC Desk before that date will be returned without action.

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#### YHOTY

A reminder from the Westlink Report newsletter. It says that its 1993 Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented at the Huntsville Hamfest and ARRL National Convention in Huntsville, Alabama the weekend of August 14th and 15th.

The Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year is a person who in the view of the judges best epitomizes the accomplishments of youth in amateur radio. Achievements can be in any area of endeavour associated to the hobby service. To qualify, a nominee must be 18 years of age or younger, be attending an accredited school or place of learning and must hold any class of valid United States amateur license. Cutoff date for nominations is June 30th. For a nominating form please send an S.A.S.E. to the 1993 Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year, 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus, CA 91350.

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#### UK SCANNER STING

From the other side of the Atlantic comes word of a rather unique sting against scanner radio enthusiasts. Police in Warrington, England fed up with people listening to their 2-way communications decided to broadcast a message about a crashed flying saucer. They gave details were to find it and also warned that the object was radio-active and shouldn't be approached.

In almost no time at all, five eavesdroppers which arrived. All were expecting to see little men from outer space. Instead they saw big men in uniforms who told them that they were under arrest. Sources in the United Kingdom say that they will all be prosecuted for telecommunication offenses.

While scanners radios are widely available in the England, it is against the law to act on messages received, or pass them on to other people.

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